

Gull-billed Tern at Pelican Point, Swan River Estuary.—While making a routine observation of Pelican Point, Swan River Estuary, on November 26, 1963, we heard a strange call, best syllabised by the words "chup-chup". Two unfamiliar-looking terns were then seen flying around with the other gulls and terns and when they drew closer the squarish tail, black crown and complete lack of white on the forehead were noticed. As they circled they passed almost directly overhead and the black, robust beak and black legs were clearly visible.

The birds were definitely smaller than the Caspian Tern and appeared to be larger than the Crested Tern; though this feature is not supported by the data in reference books. These characters, together with the call (which fits Condon's "kuk-wuk" rendition extremely well) prove conclusively that the birds were Gull-billed Terns (*Sterna nilotica*), this species apparently being a very recent invader of South-Western Australia and not having been reported on very many previous occasions.

—H. ANDERSON and R. H. STRANGER, Nedlands.

Treefern at Bedfordale.—The Rough Treefern, *Cyathea australis* (R.Br.) Domin (*Alsophila australis* R.Br.), has become naturalised at Bedfordale, near Armadale, Western Australia. This treefern is native to Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales, and Queensland. It is the more common of the two treefern species of the fern gullies in the Dandenong Range in Victoria, and is becoming increasingly popular as an ornamental in Perth gardens.

On a recent trip to Bedfordale to investigate this treefern population, I visited a local orchardist, Mr. O. J. Dowell, who told me he planted a single plant of *Cyathea* in 1934 on the bank of Nerrigen Brook in the orchard property of his father at "Draycott Gardens," Albany Highway, Bedfordale. From that plant the present population has developed by wind and water dispersal of spores.

At present, there are about a hundred mature plants along some two miles of Nerrigen Brook and tributary creeks, and associated with them are numerous areas of prothallia and sporlings on the creek embankments where braeken, scrub and grasses afford these tender juvenile stages sufficient shelter. Although the fern community is, as yet, confined to water courses in orchards along the valley the creek banks bear some original scrub and braeken as well as dense thickets of pasture grasses, so I think we can consider the community naturalised under semi-natural conditions.

—G. G. SMITH, Botany Department, University of W.A., Nedlands.

Early Arrival of White-winged Triller, *Lalage suewii*, in the South-West.—On a recent visit to Dangin—August 25, 1963—I found at least two male Trillers in a remnant of Wandoo forest. One of these was adding to a part-constructed nest 16 ft. from the ground